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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

43471 7590 06/24/2009

Motorola, Inc.
Law Department
1303 East Algonquin Road
3rd Floor
Schaumburg, IL 60196

EXAMINER

PENG, FRED H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2426

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2009

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/724,943

12/01/2003

Christopher J. Stone

BCS03152_USA

3634

TITLE OF INVENTION: MULTI-DEVICE DISTRIBUTED DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEMS AND METHODS

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1510 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1810 | 09/24/2009 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

43471 7590 06/24/2009

Motorola, Inc.
Law Department
1303 East Algonquin Road
3rd Floor
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

| |
|--------------------|
| (Depositor's name) |
| (Signature) |
| (Date) |

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/724,943 12/01/2003 Christopher J. Stone BCS03152_USA 3634

TITLE OF INVENTION: MULTI-DEVICE DISTRIBUTED DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEMS AND METHODS

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|
|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------|

nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 09/24/2009

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|----------|----------|----------------|
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PENG, FRED H 2426 725-089000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/724,943 | 12/01/2003 | Christopher J. Stone | BCS03152_USA | 3634 |
| 43471 | 7590 | 06/24/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| Motorola, Inc. Law Department 1303 East Algonquin Road 3rd Floor Schaumburg, IL 60196 | | | PENG, FRED H | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2426 | |
| DATE MAILED: 06/24/2009 | | | | |

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 892 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 892 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/724,943 | STONE, CHRISTOPHER J. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | FRED PENG | 2426 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/03/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-19 and 22-33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

/Joseph P. Hirl/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2426
June 18, 2009

Art Unit: 2426

Examiner's Amendment/Reason for Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Larry T. Cullen on 06/16/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1

A method for providing a multi-device distributed digital video recording system, comprising:

broadcasting a request from a requesting digital video recorder (DVR) to a plurality of networked DVRs seeking resources of a dormant DVR;

receiving a response to the request from at least one dormant DVR in the plurality of networked DVRs indicating availability of resources;

selecting a granting DVR from the at least one dormant DVR with available resources;

establishing a session between said requesting DVR and said granting DVR;

providing resources of said granting DVR for use by said requesting DVR;

requesting by the requesting DVR that said granting DVR tune to a particular channel and record designated content from said particular channel to store said designated content at said granting DVR for use by said requesting DVR; and

when the granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel,

receiving an indication that the granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel; and

requesting access to the particular channel by the requesting DVR on behalf of the granting DVR, whereby designated content from said particular channel is recorded by the granting DVR.

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Claims 4 and 5 are cancelled.

Claims 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, in line 1, change claim 4 to claim 1.

Claim 17

A multi-device distributed digital video recording system, comprising:

a plurality of networked digital video recorders;

a requesting digital video recorder (DVR) capable of broadcasting a request to said plurality of networked DVRs seeking resources of a dormant DVR;

at least one dormant DVR in the plurality of networked DVRs capable of receiving the request and for providing a response to said requesting DVR indicating availability of resources;

wherein:

said requesting DVR selects a granting DVR from the at least one dormant DVR with available resources;

a session is established between said requesting DVR and said granting DVR; and

resources of said granting DVR are made available for use by said requesting DVR,

wherein resources of said granting DVR are made available for use by said requesting DVR by:

requesting by the requesting DVR that said granting DVR tune to a particular channel and record designated content from said particular channel to store said designated content at said granting DVR for use by said requesting DVR; and

when the granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel,

receiving an indication that the granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel; and

requesting access to the particular channel by the requesting DVR on behalf of the granting DVR, whereby designated content from said particular channel is recorded by the granting DVR.

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Claims 20 and 21 are cancelled.

Claims 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 32, in line 1, change claim 20 to claim 17.

Claim 33

A digital video recorder (DVR) for use in a multi-device distributed digital video recording system, comprising:

- at least one tuner;

- at least one storage device;

- a processor enabled for at least one of:

- (a) broadcasting a request to a plurality of networked DVRs seeking resources of at least one dormant DVR;

- receiving a response to the request from the at least one dormant DVR indicating availability of resources;

- selecting a granting DVR from the at least one dormant DVR with available resources;

- establishing a session with said granting DVR; and

- utilizing resources of said granting DVR; and

- (b) receiving a broadcast request from a requesting DVR seeking available resources;

- responding to said requesting DVR regarding availability of resources;

- if resources are available and if selected by said requesting DVR, establishing a session with said requesting DVR; and

- providing resources for use by said requesting DVR,

- wherein resources of said granting DVR are made available for use by said requesting DVR by:

- requesting by the requesting DVR that said granting DVR tune to a particular channel and record designated content from said particular channel to store said designated content at said granting DVR for use by said requesting DVR; and

- when the granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel,

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receiving an indication that the granting DVR does not have access to the particular channel; and

requesting access to the particular channel by the requesting DVR on behalf of the granting DVR, whereby designated content from said particular channel is recorded by the granting DVR.

Reason for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Claims 1-3, 6-19 and 22-33 are allowed.

The current invention teaches a granting DVR from among multiple DVRs connected through a communication network is able to share its available storage for use upon a request from another DVR. When the granting DVR is not authorized to receive a particular channel, the requesting DVR is able to request access to the particular channel on behalf of the granting DVR to receive and store the content in the granting DVR.

The prior art of record, Agnihorti (US 2002/0184638) teaches sharing available storage space from a digital video recorder (DVR) among multiple DVRs connected through a communication network by requesting from another requesting DVR. The granting DVR then access the requested channel and store the content at the granting DVR after receiving the recording task from the requesting DVR.

The prior art of record does not teach when the granting DVR is not authorized to receive a particular channel, the requesting DVR is able to request access to the particular channel on behalf of the granting DVR to receive and store the content in the granting DVR. Therefore, make this invention allowable over the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Correspondence Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRED PENG whose telephone number is (571)270-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 09:30-19:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hirl can be reached on (571) 272-3685. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fhp

/Joseph P. Hirl/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2426
June 18, 2009